

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congressman McCarthy, along with House and Senate colleagues, joined former first lady Nancy Reagan to unveil the statue of our country's 40th President, Ronald Wilson Reagan. Joining Congressman McCarthy for the unveiling ceremony was Shandon resident and former National Security Advisor, Judge Bill Clark. Congressman McCarthy issued the following statement:

"As a proud Californian, I am grateful that this statue of President Reagan has been added to these historic halls. President Reagan once said, 'While I take inspiration from the past, like most Americans, I live for the future.' In these troubled economic times, we too should live for the future and be inspired by President Reagan's work of rebuilding America's strength and optimism with character and conviction. His presence in the Rotunda should remind Congress today, and those to come, that a stronger future can be built with common-sense American solutions."

The statue of President Reagan was placed in the Capitol Rotunda, considered a place of honor. The statue faces the west, just as Reagan did when he was inaugurated on the west side of the U.S. Capitol building. Other statues in the Rotunda include Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln. Each state is allowed to have two statues placed in the U.S. Capitol, and generally the statues represent a significant historical figure from that state. Each statue must be made of bronze or marble, represent someone that has passed away and must reside in the U.S. Capitol for 10 years before being replaced if the state chooses to do so. The statue of Ronald Reagan joins California's other statue, that of Father Junipero Serra, in the Capitol.

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